

CLAIMS

- [1] A water feeding apparatus for feeding water to a target to be fed with water, comprising:
- an adder for adding a treatment substance to the water; and
- 5 a shower emitter for spraying, in a form of a shower, the water fed thereto via the adder onto the target.
- [2] The water feeding apparatus of claim 1,
- wherein the adder is an ion eluter that elutes an ion as the treatment substance and that adds the ion to the water passing therethrough.
- 10 [3] The water feeding apparatus of claim 2,
- wherein the ion eluter includes an electrode from which a metallic ion is eluted and an outflow port through which the water is fed to the shower emitter, and
- wherein the outflow port is located in a position lower than a lower end of the electrode.
- 15 [4] The water feeding apparatus of claim 2,
- wherein the ion eluter includes an electrode from which a metallic ion is eluted and an outflow port through which the water is fed to the shower emitter, and
- wherein the outflow port includes a first outflow port that is located in a position lower than a lower end of the electrode and a second outflow port that is located in a
- 20 position higher than a higher end of the electrode.
- [5] The water feeding apparatus of claim 1,
- wherein the shower emitter is composed of a vibrator that atomizes by vibration the water fed thereto via the adder.

- [6] A method of feeding water whereby water in a form of a shower is sprayed onto a target to be fed with water by use of the water feeding apparatus of claim 1.
- [7] A washer comprising:
the water feeding apparatus of claim 1; and
5 a laundry tub in which laundry is put as the target to be fed with water.
- [8] The washer of claim 7, further comprising:
controlling means for controlling addition of the treatment substance to the water by the adder in such a way that either first water containing the treatment substance or second water not containing the treatment substance is sprayed onto the laundry..
- 10 [9] The washer of claim 8,
wherein the controlling means performs control such that the shower emitter sprays the first water during at least one of a rinsing process, a spin-drying process, and a drying process.
- [10] The washer of claim 9,
15 wherein the controlling means performs control such that spraying of the first water by the shower emitter is turned on and off repeatedly during a drying process.
- [11] The washer of claim 8,
wherein the controlling means performs control such that the laundry is moved while the first water is being sprayed.
- 20 [12] The washer of claim 8,
wherein the controlling means performs control such that air is blown onto the laundry while the first water is being sprayed.
- [13] The washer of claim 8,
wherein the treatment substance is a metallic ion.

[14] The washer of claim 13,
wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and
wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water
containing the silver ion is 0.1 mg or more per kilogram of laundry.

5 [15] The washer of claim 13,
wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and
wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water
containing the silver ion is less than 19 mg per kilogram of laundry.

[16] The washer of claim 13,
10 wherein the controlling means controls a drain valve for draining water inside the
laundry tub in such a way that draining of water is suspended for a predetermined
period of time after the shower emitter finishes spraying the water in the form of a
shower.

[17] The washer of claim 13,
15 wherein the controlling means performs control such that the laundry tub is rotated for
a predetermined period of time after the shower emitter finishes spraying the water in
the form of a shower.

[18] The washer of claim 13, further comprising:
an input handler for accepting setting of a washing course; and
20 an operation controller for controlling operation of the washing course set via the input
handler,
wherein the laundry tub is a holeless tub, and
wherein, when a tub cleaning course for cleaning the laundry tub is set as the washing
course via the input handler, the operation controller controls operation of the tub

cleaning course in such a way that the tub is cleaned with an amount of water sufficient to permit an agitating member for agitating the laundry put in the holeless tub to be immersed in the water.

[19] The washer of claim 18,

5 wherein the operation controller controls the operation of the tub cleaning course in such a way that the tub is cleaned with water containing the metallic ion.

[20] The water feeding apparatus of claim 4,

wherein the shower emitter includes shower emitters provided so as to correspond respectively to the first and second outflow ports, and

10 wherein the individual shower emitters are connected to the respective outflow ports via connection pipes with height differences left in between.

[21] The water feeding apparatus of claim 20,

wherein, of the individual shower emitters, the shower emitter located in a lower position is located in a position lower than a lower end of the electrode of the ion eluter.

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[22] The washer of claim 11,

wherein the controlling means performs control such that the laundry tub is rotated while the first water is being sprayed.

[23] The washer of claim 11,

20 wherein the controlling means performs control such that an agitating member for agitating the laundry is rotated while the first water is being sprayed.

[24] The washer of claim 13,

wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and

wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water

containing the metallic ion is 0.9 mg or more per kilogram of laundry.

[25] The washer of claim 13,

wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and

wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water

5 containing the metallic ion is 1 mg or more per kilogram of laundry.

[26] The washer of claim 13,

wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and

wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water

containing the metallic ion is 10 mg or less per kilogram of laundry.

10 [27] The washer of claim 13,

wherein the metallic ion is a silver ion, and

wherein an amount of metal that is attached to the laundry sprayed with the first water

containing the metallic ion is 0.1 mg or more and less than 19 mg per kilogram of
laundry.

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